

CHARLES HICKS

Diary of California Gold Rush Trek, 1849

Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center

Newark Public Library

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Transcriber's comments

There is no indication of pagination in the manuscript and an unknown number of pages precede the transcribed material. The author of the diary commonly omits letters or uses incorrect letters in words thus giving the misleading impression that there are many typographical errors in the transcript. There is also unpredictable capitalization which has been replaced with modern usage.

The writer of the diary is inconsistent in his use of the "first person" and "third person" in his daily entries. On four days (May 19, May 31, July 28, and August 1) he refers to himself as "Hicks" but beginning on April 20 he uses the words "I" or "my" thirty-five additional times. Whether the meaning of this is made clear in the earlier entries is not known to the transcriber.

This overland company was unusual as three other diarists are known to have traveled in it—Charles Glass Gray, Robert Bond and Alexander J. Cartwright. (Stephen Harris Meeker also kept a journal which may still be in existence.) "Jersey Gold, The Newark Overland Company's Trek to California, 1849," by Margaret Casterline Bowen and Gwendolyn Joslin Hiles, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017, deals with the entire company in general terms, not individuals or messes. The Darcy Company is also mentioned in a number of 1849 newspapers both from New Jersey and other states.

Job Denman died August 23 of typhoid fever near Black Rock on the Applegate Route. An untitled article in the Millburn & Short Hills Item [NJ] of March 9, 1944, p. 9, c. 2, mistakenly reports that Denman was flayed alive by Indians far to the east on Rawhide Creek, Nebraska. That stream is on the north side of the Platte River and the Darcy Company traveled on the south side so his death at Rawhide Creek would have been impossible. For details see "Flayed Alive—Fact or Fable," by Richard Rieck, Overland Journal, *in press* to appear in 2025 or 2026.

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[entry continues from unnumbered previous pages] the Santa fee road due west Arive at 2 pm Pitchd tents Got dinner We are as far out as we can go untill the grass grows The wethr is cold making ice in our tents at night Bg Blue River [the Blue River which runs through Independence, MO] is 8 miles off Our oxen have worked well to day

Thursdy Apr 19

Arose 6 am Mornig clear & cold

Fridy [Apr] 20

Wethr fine Our men have been out shooting and have brought home 7 wild geese with rabbitts duck snipe &c I walked about 20 miles with a gun [on] my shouldr and returnd to camp tired out Found a good suppr ready of corn bread and stewd rabbitt

Saturdy April 21

Arose at 4½ Went out for wild geese Brought home two r[abbits?] 8 oclck have to day dined with Gr[General] Darcy by[?] invitatio to eat a roast goose which we all enjoyed much

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Sundy 22 Apr

Arose at 6 Walket out to a stream of water and bathed Breakfast at 7 on ham & eggs Walked four miles to Bg Blue [River] with two friend Pulled of [writer commonly misspells "off" as "of"] our shoes & stockig an waded across the water 2 feet deep Dined to day on wheat bred made by one of our mess bake in a fire pan Roast goose snipe meadow larks and baked beans Mercury to day in tent 70° Yestardy made matrasses for our mess and last night enjoyed the luxury of a bed

Monday 23 Apl

Arose at 6 am Commence raining about ** oclok this morng and continud untill ** Pm Our party being fearful of a rise in the Bg Blue River which we have to ford about 13 miles from here sent me of on horse back to seek a new encampmt on the other side of it Rode through a heavy rain about one mile beyound the river Succeed in my business and returnd to camp to dine at 2 PM

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The weather being fine have determin not to move for the present On leaving Independance we had all of our Wagon weighed when loaded the Ger [General] an[d] Meeks being more heavily loaded then the rest say their entire weight 4400^{lbs} They have gone to Independance to buy an extra wagon and 2 pair oxen and each one to put 600^{lbs} in it and thus make their loads lighter I expect to be detailed to take charge of it

Tuesdy 24 Aprl

Arose at 5 am Morning cool but since 10 has been most beatifull The horse chestnut in great abundance Wild plums are in full bloom Goose berries and Ables [apples] abound

Wednesday [Apr] 25

We are still in camp and shell remn untill Tuesday next The wether is fine

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Thursday 26 April

Recieved a letter from home dated 9 April Our men brought in camp to day a ground hog weighng 14^{lbs}

Friday 27 Apr

Weath fine Some rumors of grass Talk of movig on

Saturday 28 Apr

Mornng cloudy The colera at Independence is on the increase seven died yesterdy and three this mornng

Sunday [Apr] 29

Mornng clear and cold After dinnr rode out to the Blue with Harris & Col Crocket Return at 8 pm

Monday 30 Apr

~~Arose at 5~~ ~~Mornng cloudy~~ ~~Struck our tents at~~ Thee wind has been blowig a perfect gale all night Slept badly

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Tuesday May 1

Arose at 5 Mornng cloudy Struck our tents at 7 and proceded on our way When ten miles out my oxen became unmanageble and broke my wagon pole Jump on a horse and rode one mile to a wagon makr to have one made He being unable to make one in tine [time] returned and withe the aid of Col Crocket & S H Meeks made on[e] and put it in which took us four hours In the mean time proceeded to encamp some four miles onward At 6 pm we being ready folowd The rain which had been threatning all dy was comeing down in torents accompaned with thunder and light[nig] such as I never saw before which made it so dark and bad driving At 8½ pm being unable to find our train who had gone a head and being misdirected we cane to a halt and in the dark made the best dispotion of our team that we could by hitchg them to a few [word missing]

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and feeding then with some corn we had with[us] which took abou[t] an ½ hour when we turned in[to] our wagon four in number to make what little sleep the situation would allow The rain continued all night and came through our wagon covers on us

Wednesday My 2

Arose at 4 am Sent one of our party out on horse to seek tidings of our people Fed the

oxen Awaited his return which was one hour with news of their being one mile from us
At 6 am started on and reached camp in time for Breakfast which we much needed as we had had no regular meal since yesterday at 6 am

Thursday 3 May

Arose at 4 am Yesterday we had engaged a man to go with us and haul 60 Bushels corn for feeding our cattle until we could get along on grass He did not [sic] come to camp until 10 am which

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caused a delay in our leaving until that time We traveled to day 15 miles in a hard rain to the Lone Elm the only water within 15 miles Arrived in camp 6 [?]

Friday 4 May

Arose at 4½ am It has been rainy all night and still continues with a prospect of a wet day Am now writing this in my wagon where I had crawled in out of the rain Breakfasted on bacon and beans cold out on the open prairie which we have now fairly entered The view to day has been grand being an unlimited extent of rolling ground as vast as the ocean Flowers of all colors are plentiful Left camp at 10 O and drove 12 miles through the mud and rain Arrive at Bull Creek at 2 o'clock and halted for the day We have no wood to cook with or dry our clothes Am compelled [to] eat out in the storm

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what cold victuals we have

Saturday May [5]

Arose at 5 Has been raining during the night and continues cloudy up to 3 pm Left camp at 7½ am and drove 12 miles and halted at 1½ O'clock on the banks of a stream to dine At 3 pm again proceeded and drove 6 miles to the Wha ha lusa [Wakarusa] River where we halted for the night This has been a hard days work having crossed one deep stream with abrupt banks and through deep slough holes and hills almost perpendicular broken up by large loose stones Took tea this evening with a Shawnee Indian at his lodge who gave me as good a cup of coffee with pure milk and warm biscuit as I have ever found at home He has two squaws and one fine boy in his domicile Retired at 10½ pm [remainder of page blank]

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Sunday May 6 1849

60 miles from Independence Awaked at 4 am and found it raining Took breakfast at 6½ am hot cakes & ham which we took out doors not having put up our tents on the march since Tuesday Left camp at 7½ am Crossed the Wha ha lusa River This spot is much the worst we have met with on our way The stream 60 feet wide with banks 25 feet high which are almost abrupt requiring 12 yoke of cattle to pull each wagon up its side We also at 1 pm ascended a high bluff say 500 feet which gave us a glorious view of the surrounding country as far as the eye could see The scene of the teams moving up this high spot was truly

fine We encamped at 6 pm on Coom Creek affording us wood and water which we much needed Have made 18 miles today

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Mondy May 7 1849

Arose at 4 am Wether fine Left camp at 5 and traveld 7 miles where we halted for breakfast Waterd our cattle off the road one mile Our halt ocupied 1½ hours Proceeded on till 5 pm when we when we [sic] had accomplishd 20 miles Encamped at a lonely spot on the banks of a stream with plenty of wood Have to day given chase to a fine wolf but lost him

Tuesday 8 My

Day very fine Have been in camp all day Col Crocket being to[o] sick to travel Rode out on horse this pm to the Kansas [River] crossing 4 miles off which we hope to cross to morrow The river is 300 yards wide and wagons are ferr[i]ed over on flats boats The Banks of the river are heavily timberd and present a fine scene

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Wednesday 9 May

Arose at 4 am Left camp at 6 The whole day has been ocupied in crossing the river and we did not arive at our camp ground this evening till 8 pm

Thursday [May] 10

2½ miles from Kansas Crossing We are unable to proced to day on account Co^l Crockets illness He has the cholera very bad this day is very fine

Friday 11 My

Weather warm and showery Are unable to move from Col Crockets debility He is a little better but quite feeble The flowers are as plenty [?] as the grass [remainder of page blank]

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Saturdy My 11 [12]

Wether warm Arose at 4 am Left camp at 8½ and traveld 14 miles Cross creek where we encamped for the night Wood and water plenty The road to day has been almost a perfect plain between two rivers from 3 to 4 miles distant The stream upon which we are encamped is very bad to cross being very much like the Wha ha lusa and will take some time to ford

Sunday [May] 12 [13] 1849

Arose at 4 am Morning fine Left camp at 6 and traveld about 18 miles and and [sic] encamped on the banks of a fine runing stream Have been to day obliged to cross three bad

streams which detained us near 3 hours We had at one of them to dig down the banks and fill up with wood and brush and double our teams to pull out The count[r]y presents no new features We are now 150 miles fm Independnc

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Monday 14 My

Arose at 4 am in the midst of a tremendous thunder storm Left camp at ¼ to 7 Halted at 12 to dine After dinner crossed the [Little] Vermillion a rapid stream whose banks thirty feet high rise allmost perpendicular requireing 12 yoke of oxen to pull our wagons out of the ravine Have to day crossed a number of bad creeks and swails Halted at 6 pm tired out having driven my team all day

Tuesday 15 May

Arose at 3 am Mornng cloudy Left camp at 4½ and traveld all day without haltng for dinner At 6 pm reached the banks of the Big Vermillion 25 miles from our camp of last night Cross the river which ocupied 1½ hours The currant is rapid and like all the streams in[?] country runig between high banks

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We were obliged to let our waggons down by ropes. After traveling two miles beyond the river we encamped for the night it being 9 pm The road to day has been over a most beautiful roling pararie with deep swails intervening The sun has been absured which with a fine rain has enabled our cattle to travel without much labor

Wednesdy [1]6 May

Arose at 4 am Left camp at ¼ ^to^ 6 Traveled *5 [15?] to reach the Big Blue which we crossed at 1 pm This is the largest stream we have forded and with the exception of the rain [incorrect word] the largest this side of the Missouri It is 120 yard wide and averaging 4 feet deep We wer as yestarday obliged to let our waggon down its banks by ropes The scenery at this place is very fine Trees of 18 feet circunference are quite conmon on its banks We halted two miles from the ford to give our cattle some corn and a biscuit to ourselves when we journeyd on till 6[?] pm when we halted for the night

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upon quite an eminence away from wood and water Comenced to rain about one hour before stoppig

Thursdy [May] 17

Arose at 4 am Left camp at 6¼ Took one hour at noon for lunch and halt for camp at 5¾ pm Our camp to night is on a small stream between the Blue and little Blue [Rivers] We have made 20 miles to day Wethr cool with heavy dews [the writer reached the junction of the Independence and St. Joseph roads about here]

Friday My 18

Arose at 2 am Left camp at 6 Traveld traveld [sic] with the exception of one hour untill 7½ pm The weather is quite warm at mid day with cool [?] nights The roads to day have been very dusty [remainder of page blank]

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Saturday May 19

Arose at 4 am Left camp at 5 Traveld 3[?] hours and halted for Beakfast One of our men brought a wild turkey to camp this morning weighing 24 lbs Deer and buffalo have been seen to day but have not yet had a shot at them We had traveld about 15 miles to day up to 1 pm When on desending a bad hill one of the hind wheels of Mr Meekes waggon gave out Every spoke was broken short of[f] It so hapend at this very spot wood and water were to be had and what was still more lucky we found a white oak tree which you would not find again prehaps in 50 miles of here It was a bout 1 mile from camp We cut it down split out the spokes and caried them to camp on our backs Gun Baldwn and Chet Hicks was detailed to go for some of them When returnig to camp Gan Baldwin took one direction and Hicks another Hicks came into camp but Gun was gone two days before comeing up with us He had fell in with another party The spokes were dried by

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by fire all night In the morn Sundy boiled then and dried then in hot sand to season them It is now

Sundy mornig [May 20]

7½ oclock and our folks have been working since 4 am repairing It is a tedious and lamentable accident At 5 pm we succeded in getting our job finished The day has been quite cold with high winds

Mondy May 21

Arose at 2 am Stood guard 2 hours At 4¼ left camp and travelld until 9½ when we halted for breakfast At 11½ proceded on our way and at 5 pm encamped on the banks of the Llittle Blue along whose banks we have been travelling two dayes We had a thunder shower this afternoon and the most beautiful rain bow succeeded it that I ever saw Twas the admiration of our whole party We are now within two days of the Platt River and have traveld about 250 miles

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Tuesday May 22

Arose at 3½ am Breakfasted and left camp at 5 Traveld till 10⁴⁰ when we halted for feedig our cattle Started at 12 and traveld untill 5½ pm when we encamped on the Little Blue upon whose banks we are yet travellig An antelope was shot to day by a train a head of us The race was spirited and interesting and was in view to us from the start to death

Wednesday 23 My

Arose at 3 am Left camp at 4¹⁵ Halted at 9¹⁵ for breakfast Resumed our journey at 11 and travelled till 5 pm Our camp to night is on the open prairie a way from wood and water it being the dividing ridge between the [Little] Blue and Platte Rivers Distance 40 miles

Thursday My 24

Arose at 3 am Left camp at 5 At 11 an reached the Platte where we halted to noon
We have had a heavy thundr shower this morning accompanid by hail The wether is as cold as January

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Stood guard last night from 10 to ***** and could not keep warm with two coats and a blanket on Yesterday at 8 am Col Crocketts waggon in crossing a branch got upset but with out a material injury At 3 pm we reached Fort Kearney a U S Military Station on the Platte River where we halted ½ an hour to procure dry wood for kindlig fires as we find no wood for 350 miles wich is Fort Laramie another Military Station on the same river About 2 miles from Fort Kearny we halted for the night [in] the midst of a cold and disagreeable rain wet through and tired with our days work Fort Kearney 360 miles from Independance

Thursdy [Friday] 25 May

Arose at 5 am after one of the most disagreeable and fatigueing nights I ever passed The rain which had been falling for two hours previous to our encampment

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with increased violence putting out our camp fires and preventing our cooking or drying our clothes The rain blew a gale The thermometer down to 45° and we were oblige to turn in to our waggons with our wet clothes on and the rain beating through the cover wet our blankets for us This morning when we arose the water stood all around our encampment from 3 inches to 3 feet [deep] and we were obliged to leave At this place Ger Darcy left a camp kettle over the fire to cook some beans for breakfast but insted of being cooked the kettle was under water Here W [W^m] Kinny got home sick and woul[d] have returnd if he could
We travelld some 6 milles before we could build fires to cook our breakfast

The soil on the plains is of such a nature that 6 or 8 hours rain makes the roads as soft [as] a new ploughed field and through such as this we draye our waggons for 8 hours sometimes getting hub deep and requireing 12 yok of oxen to pull on [sic] waggon out Of course the travelling was

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was [sic] slow and tedious enough as wearing to the driver as to the driven when considered we were obliged to wade knee deep through water and mud Such has been the true picture of one day in an overland journey to California— We are now on the banks of the Platte a stream 1000 miles long whose waters are of a yelowish cast and whose width varies from ½ to 1 mile
For cookg and drinking we must for one month or more make use of it We encamped to night [sic] at 5 pm having traveld about 15 [miles] The weather has been clear but very cold requiring over coats and unable to keep warm

Saturday My 26 1849

Arose this mornng at 3½ Left camp at 5 and drove untill 5 pm with one and ½ [?] hou[r]s halt at noon fr dinnr Traveled about 20 miles Our folks brought to camp ths evenig a fine antelope weighig about ***** We have during the day seen 30 or 40 of them but [they] were very wild A plant resembling the turks head but much handsomer has been plenty to dy on the bottom land

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Sunday 27 May 1849

Arose at 3½ am to find a heavy frost coveng [sic] the waggons Left camp at 5 Halted at 10 for one hour for breakfast Encampd at 5 on the banks of the Platte Have traveled 20 mils to dy

Monday 28 My 1849

Arose at 4 am Left camp at 6 Halted at 11 am for dinn for one hour and halted at 5 pm to encamp Traveld abut 20 mils When we halted at noon it was near the camp of some fur traders just from Fort Laramie with loads of fur bound for St Joseph Mus [sic] Mr Meeks availed him self of the oportuntly to write to his wife and send it by them I was not aware of the fact in tine to write but requestd Harris [Stephen Harris Meeker] to ask his wife to go see my mothr and informe herr of our well fare Our travel since we left Fort Kearny has been near the river on the bottom lands which are hear [sic] about two miles wide runng very regular with the river banks Beyond the bottom the hills are very irregular varying from 20 to 100 feet high being

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impassible for wggon travel They are [the] favorite resort of buffaloes where our cattle guard discovered several [?] this morning and mistook them in the early dawn for some of our heard Wood is very scarce here there being none but a few scatered trees on the banks and islands of the river The [river] is quite full of islands over varying from one quarter to 1000 acres They are covered with good grass We are obliged to cross over to these islands to procure wod for cooking We have for some days been using buffalo chips to cook with which we found in abundance which in a few days will be our onely fuel untill we get to the mo[untains]

Tuesday My 29 1849

Arose at 2 am Stood guard two hours At 5 left camp Halted at 11½ to moon [sic] At one resumed our journey and at 5½ pm reached our camp ground about 20 [probably 2] miles from the main road

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where we drove in search of water having been with out a[n]y all day The weathr has been most delightfull all day the usual fine breese blowing

Wednesday 30 May 1849

During the night we have had a most severe thunder storm with a gale of wind The rain came with such force as to drive through the waggon covers and soak our blankets It is now 10 am and the storm continues We are unable to have any fire in camp and I have therefore not been out of waggon. During the past night 13 of our cattle strayed off and our men are now out in search of them 8 pm the rain continues to fall

Thursday 31 May

Arose at 5 am Weather yet wet and cold Some of our men have been out all night in search of our cattle During the day the day [sic] we have sent out fresh men 15 or 20 miles in search but up to 6 pm were unsuccessful At that hour a party came in with 11 of them [sic] [page 25]

At 11 another party came in with one which yet leaves one gone Charles Hicks of the party brought in some buffalo meat which he had shot in the hills when looking for the lost cattle Jerolemon [Joralemon] and Woodruff brought in an antelope and Pennington a young wolf alive

Friday June 1 1849

Arose at 4 am Left camp at 6½ am at the same time sent out a party to seek the one stray ox At 12 when we had halted for dinner they came into camp with the lost ox Some of the party today brought in a fine badger which we roasted and f***** very fine Encamped at 5 pm 15 miles above the forks of the Platte

Saturday June 2 1849

Arose at 3 am Left camp at 4½ Crossed the south fork of the Platte [well east of the traditional "California Crossing"] at 8 am which we had to ford Water from 2 to 4 feet deep with a very strong current The two forks are here [page 26]

are about 2 miles apart We now continue up the south side of the North Fork to to [sic] Fort Larimer 170 miles We shot two buffalo bulls this morning directly after crossing the river Encamped at 4½ pm Weather fine

Sunday June 3 1849

Arose at 3 am Left camp at 5½ Shortly after which a herd of 75 buffaloes crossed the river to our shore out of which we got six In about one hour after we killed a fine calf about two months old Up to our time of halting at noon our road has been over the bluffs miles away from the river Country poor and sandy At 12 found a few red cedar trees which were a welcome sight having been out of wood for some time Each wagon put on as much as possible Halted at 7 pm on the bottom lands Day very hot Evening damp & cold [remainder of page blank]

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Monday June 4 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 5½ Halted at 11 am for 1½ hours Encamped at 6½ pm

Weathr fine Roads heavy and hilly Home sweet home nevr brighter and and [sic] constr*** in my breast has been more vividly before me when to day such beautifull roses and various other prarie flowers have been as plentiful as the grass around us I collected a beautiful boquet and a thousand time wished fond and dear friends at home could enjoy[]it with me A cactus I found some days since in such profusion has reapeard to day in bloom It varies from any we have in our section and is handsome

Tuesday June 5 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 5½ Halted for dinner 1½ hours at 11½ and encamped at 5 oclok for the night The road to dy have been along the North Fork bottom with bad abrupt rises and heavy sand makig laborious work for our teans added to which the sun has [been] out with bright and *****

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and without the prevailing rain winds has made it intensley hot At 6 pm heavy black clouds made their apperance in the west charged with electricity and soon after came upon[]us a gaust the wind pouring down torrents of rain and hail as large as pigeons eggs with heavy thundr The storm contineed for 3 hours and as usual makig our situatn rather dissagreeable as wet blankets to slep in are not pleasent Yestarday at 3 pm we passed through Ash Hollow a land mark on the road being about 550 miles from Independance and 100 from Larime Toward evening we passed through a small stream upon whose banks stood a solitary tree in whose branches we found the dead body of an Indian and on the tree an other in full costume The Sioux remains in whose county we now are they are in the habit of disposing of their dead in this way It looked strange enough to us to see humanity dressed in some much pomp [?] and left to withr in the open air

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Wednesday June 6

Arose at 4 Left camp about 6 Halted at 1 for dinner The mornig has been cloudy and cold overcoats are quite comfortable Road heavey from last nights rain We have a gain to day seen another Indian body disposed of as yestardy with gun tin cup and moccasins on his person Sticks of wood are first laid with striip [strips?] of skins to the branches Buffalo skins then are laid on and the body placed on these At 4 pm we had another violent hail storm accompanied by thundr and lightning which lasted twenty minutes The ground was as white as tho snow had fallen Encamped at 6 pm From our encamp we can see the celebrated Court House 6 miles of[f] and the Chimney Rock 30 miles of These two spots are noted land marks of the voyagers across the plains The first [second] named is a marl formation on quite an eminence and at this distance resembles a shot tower or emense chimney It is composed of sand stone but is fast wearig away by the action of the storms

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being now only 300 feet high when a few years ago it was 500

Thursday June 7 1849

Arose at 4 am Mornng [c]lear and cold Halted 1½ hours at noon fr dinner Encampd at 5 pm on the bank of North Fork within 5 miles of Chimny Rock which is in full view and at this distance presents a fine feature in the scenery of the bluffs The base covers about ½ an acre and is sugar loaf shape from which rises the shaft some 40 feet in circumference about 200 feet high I walked out this am 8 miles to the Court House spoken of yestay It seems 200 feet high and is formed of soft blue sand stone It covers near an acre and much resembles sone large buildig We have had anothr hail and thundr storm ths afternoon

Friday June 8 1849

Arose at 4 an Left camp at 5 and halted for dinner 1½ hours and encamped at 5½ pm At 2 pm we left the water [river] at [a] point called Scotts Bluffs which makes out to the river bank and we were obliged to make

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a deture [sic] of 30 miles when we again came to the Platte at Horse Creek [no— see June 9] no wood or water for this entire distance We formed our encampment upon the table land between two parrallel rang of high bluffs worked by the wind and rains into beautiful picturesque shapes resembling cottage houses forts and allmost every discription of fanciful buildings

Saturday June 9 1849

Left camp at 3½ am to make a push for water for our cattle having been without since noon of yestarday Halt for breakfast at 7 and reached Horse Creek at 2 pm where our weary animals were refreshed with a fine swim Encamped at 4½ about one mile from the bank of the Platte The roads to day have been most excelent enabling us to make 25 miles Weather cool and c**** [remainder of page blank]

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Sunday June 10 1849

Arose at 5 am Left camp at 7= At 10 the day was so very warm we halted till 2 pm and travelld untill 7 During our stop at noon availed myself of the opportunity of washig up my dirty clothes which had been accumulating for six weeks past This was a new business for me and come rather tough Last eveng our men brought into camp a fine antelope which made some fine meals for us all

Monday 11 June 1849

Arose at 4 am Left camp at 5½ Travelled 3½ hours and reached Laramie River a deep rapid stream so hig[h] that we were obliged to block up our waggon bodies to prevent the water fror [sic] weting our goods It caused a detention of four hours Two miles from here we reached Fort Larime a ~~deep rapid stream~~ trading post belonging to the American Fur Compay It is a mud structure built on a holow square and coves about half an acre of ground We halted here to mail some letters and gratify our curiosity for one hour

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when we proceeded on to the Platte about 5 miles distant and camped at 7 pm Road sandy and

hard dragging for the cattle and poor pasture We are now about 275 miles from the celebrated South Pass which we hope to reach by July 4

Tuesday June 12

Arose at 4 Left camp at 5½ Halted at 11½ for dinner At 1 pm resumed our journey & encamped 6 at Bitter Cotton Wood Creek 30 miles from Larimie Our road to day has been quite bad Entering the bluffs early in the mornng we encounterd heavy sand hills in some parts and gravelly ones with rock crossing [cropping] out in others passing through deep ravines and uneven bottoms Water has ***** been scarce as we are now off from the Platte some 130 miles distant from where we crossed on the bluffs from which line [sic] stone rock crop out Pine trees of large size are qute abundant the onely wood which here appears, except in the bottom where some elm and poplar grows.

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We are now at 7 pm blessed with a rain storm which fron appearances will last all night and as my watch comes on the prospects is quite cheering particiarly afrt walkige 30 miles

Wednesday 13 June 1849

Arose at 3½ Left camp at 4½ and campd halting at noon 1½ hours The Black Hills have been in view all day the tops coverd with snow They are a long high range of rocky formation running northeast and south west [no- they run NW-SE] Our road has been very tedious and hard on the cattle travelling all day over high hills quite steep and hard being composed principally of quartz of fine particles which grinds of the horn of the cattles feet and causes a lameness Water and pasture scarce Weathr cold enough for overcoats but clear

Thursday June 14 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Traveled 12 miles to a stream of clear water Nooned at 12 on an eminence 2 miles beyond Encamped at 4½ pm Road hilly and dusty Weathr clear & fin[e]

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Fridy June 15 1849

Arose at 4 am Breakfasted and left camp at 6½ Halted at 12 for 1½ hours Encamp at 6 pm The road to day has been over a succession of hills proving quite tedious The land is poor and no pasture to be found except on the banks of streams The whole face of the country is coverd with wild sage and the air prefumed [sic] with its fragrance

Saturdy 16 June

Arose at 4 Left camp at 7 am and drove to Deer Creek 9 miles where we arived at noon We shall halt here untill Monday for rest to man and beast The stream of water is a fine one 25 feet deep [wide] it emties into the North Platte about 6 miles off Fish of different kinds abound in it We took with our net this afternoon about one hundred and [word missing?] salmon trout weighing 2 pounds and upward Day warm

Sunday June 17

Arose at 2 am for guard duty Morning clear and air delightful Built large camp fire for company Breakfast at 7 on fresh fish and hot biscuit with
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a good cup of coffe Spent the day in rapairing waggons and repacking

Monday June 18 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6½ Drove 9 mils to Muddy Creek over a heavey sandy road with out where we rested our cattle for half an hour Drove on about 3/ miles when we found a train of teams were crossing the river Platte by means of a raft which they had built The regular ferries are beyond here one 6 miles the other 14 mils At the two [ferries] some 700 teams were wating to cross and as some days would elapse before we could cross we halted and were enabled to make an arrangement to use their raft The river here is 300 feet wide and 8 or 10 feet deep with a tremendous current A rope is attached to each end of the raft and pulled across by men of the ferry above \$5 for a waggon is charged and extra for the load

Tuesday June 19 1849

Arose at 4 this morning Helped to ferry over 20 waggons whose turn cane ahead of ours. At noon we commncd to fery over our waggons and by 3 pm
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had safely gotten 4 over but in endeavoring to get the 5[th] over the wind suddenly arose and when about midway capsised the wagon and away down the stream it went with all its contents flour bacon hams &c (I will here state M** Henry Johnson had a buffalo pate nailed to the side of his top which prevented it [the wagon cover] from being removed which was realy the cause of the accident [as it acted like a sail] as we had removed all of the othes before putting them on the [raft?][I]) After floating down the river about a mile the [wagon] body drifted ashore but the wheels sunk and all that could be saved from the ruin was the partial wardrobe of the owners H[enry L.] Johnson [Daniel S.] Berdsall and [Joseph] Freeman We encamp to night after safely getting the remonder of our waggons over on an island at the crossig

Wednesdy June 20

Arose at 4½ Was busy till noon makng arangement to acomodate the four men who had lost their home At one we had a heavy shower of rain and as usual got wet through but
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as I was in the water all dy yestardy sometimes over head [I] do not mind trifles such as these After dinner finding the grass so good we concluded to halt untill morning so availed ourselves of the opportunity Four of us went out in search of antelope We returned to camp at 10 pm with one live doe and three which we had shot

Thursdy June 21

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Halted at 12 for dinnr and encamped at 5 pm on the north bank of the Platte [probably near the Mormon Ferry] Our road to day has been hilly and very sandy The felloes [of the wagon wheel] peing [being] three in undr[?] have only made 15 miles Weather clear and warn

Friday June 22 1849

Arose at 2 Stood guard till 5 Left camp at 6 Passed Mineral Spring at 8 Halted 1 hour at noon Pass through [Rock] Avenue at 4 pm and encamped at 7 having drven 25 miles without any water The roads dry and dusty and day hot The Rock Avenue is one of [the] most singular freaks of nature being a narrow passage way between two [page 39]
lines of rocks packed up 60 and 100 feet high in grand confusion One cannot describe the appearance for it [is] unlike anything else in nature

Saturdy [June 23]

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Drove 11 miles to dinner Started at 1½ pm and drove 7 mils to camp We are now in what is called the Great American Desert and the roads are almost impassible on acount of the sand At 10 am we ascended Prospect Hill 2 miles beyond Willow Spri[n]g from the tob [sic] of which we had a fine view of the surroundig county with the Sweet Water Mountains in foreg[round] 15 miles distant

Sundy June 24

Arose at 3½ Left camp at 4 am Drove to Independance Rock at the fordig of the Sweet Water River 7 miles to breakfast The river here is 60 feet wide and 3 feet deep with a stiff current but easily forded This section of the country called the Great American Desert abounds with alkali lakes and springs the water of which [page 40]
is poisonous to cattle and much care is required to prevent their drinkig it We have seen a great ma[n]y dead ones along the road Salaratus in abundance may be gatherd from their margins of which we availed ourselves Grass is scarce and poor the air being to[o] dry for vegetation No dews and but little rain falling The roads deep with sand Intolerable dusty We halted 6 hours to day at the crossing to rest our teams and do some washing At 3 pm we poke [sic] camp and drove 6 miles to the Devils Gate a pass in the rock 400 feet high and 40 feet wide through which which [sic] the Sweet Water River passes which rises in the Rocky Mountais and emties into the Platte It presents a very curious feature and is noted in all the guide books We are now appoachig the South Pass 90 miles distant which we expect to reach by Sinday next The roads now become more tidious and our dives shorter
In commencing our journey we fell into the to common an error of emmigrants in leading [loading wagons] too hevvy We like others have had to throw away all superflious articles Thousands of pounds [page 41]
of provisions have been left along the road more by mule teams then by oxen mules beig

less able to draw through heavy roads One reason the mules beig young and not thoroughly broke and the driers [drivers] green Hundreds of wagons here have been abandoned and the muls packed 6000 teams have started to cross the plains but ma[n]y cannot get through for want of pasture Encamped at 6 pm on a fine clear stream a tribute [tributary] of the Sweet Water Weather hot

Monday 25 June

Arose at 4 Left camp at 5½ Drove 10 miles to a small creek where we nooned at 12 m[eridian = noon] Drove on and encamp at 5 on the Sweet Water having made 20 miles to day Roads sane as yestardy This evenig I called on Maj Simpson Lieut May Lieu[t] Ervin Doct Edgar and othes of the U S service who are encampd near us on their way to establish a fort on Bear River They are the same Gentlemen whose acquaintance I made on the steamer for St Louis to Independnce Weathr hot and dry

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Tuesday June 26 1849

Traveld 8 miles to the Sweet Water River where it is usually forded but found it to high so were obliged to continue on south side of it Made our usual noon halt and encamped at 5 pm on the river bank having made 17 miles Our road to dg [sic] has been same as yestardy and if the Desert of Arabia can beat this part of the county for sand barrens I am much mistaken in my judgment Since we left Independnce Rock we have been travelling between two spurs of the Rocky Mountains one on the north Rattlesnak Mountains and south Black Hills [no— Ferris, Green and Crooks Mountains] The Rattlesnake mountans are entirely devoid of earth and are one solid body of rock with fisures and creveces but no detachd masses They extend about 90 miles east of the Rocky We have been with out wood for 6 days being obliged to cook with buffalo chips The party have killed two antelope to dy [3 lines blank]

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Wednesday June 27

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Nooned at 11½ for 1½ hours Yestardy it rained between us and the mountars quite hard which has made the drive to dy more agreeable It has been ovr a rolig county with out soil stones and no vegetation but Artimesia We have to day seen another of the wonders of the country being what is called the Ice Spring down in a piece of bottom land By digging 10 inches we found [as] fine clear ice as you wish to seed [sic] with earth and a good crop of grass on top of it Encamped at 5 pm on the Sweet water having made 20 mils Weether pleasant

Thursdy June 28

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Rested our teans for ½ hour at noon and encamped at 4 pm on Strawberry Creek having drove 17 mils Our road to dy has been over steep rocky assents [Rocky Ridge] almost to rough for waggon travel and very tedioes to our cattlee Our camp [page 44]

to night is but 20 miles fm South Pass At sunrise this mornig our eyes were greeted with one of the most mgnificent sights to be found in the west about 50 miles distant the Wind River Mountains whose tops were coverd with snow and which rise amidst the snowy regions glowed with the first rayes of the sunshine like some beatiful picture and for a long time twas difficult to distinguish between the mountain tops and the gilded outlines of the clouds

Fridy June 29 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 and drove 11 miles to a ford of the Sweet water where we nooned After dinner drove 9 miles to the South Pass [see June 30] where on the Sweet Water we encamped Our road to day has been most excellent As we ascend to the culminating point we find less obstructions than lower down Snow in great abundance lies near the road side We have been regaled for two days past with water cooled by it In fact all the streans hereabouts are as cold as ice water Weather most delightful Wild flowers of the richest hues

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Saturday 30 June

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Crossed the great South Pass at 7 Reached the Pacific Spring at 8 thus in two hours having drank of the waters which flow into the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans At 9 forded Pacific Creek Halted at 11 am for 3½ hours to rest cattle and then drove till 10½ pm to Little Sandy there being no water or grass nearer Our roal to day has been good as Broad St is lone mont [?] of the year and no person would ever believe they were on the Rocky Mountains for with the exception of the Wind River Mountains towering above us on the north whose tops are coverd with snow there is not a rock to be seen The weathr is pleasant the air cool probably efected by the sorounding snow Drove to day 29¼ miles

Suny July 1 1849

To dy being Sundy and having done a good weeks work we concluded to make it a dy of rest for man and beast The weathr cool but clear and pleasent

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Mondy 2 July 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Forded the river on whose banks we have been en camped Drove 8¼ miles to Big Sandy and fordid it being fifty feet wide and 2½ deep Rested and dined from 11 to 1 pm and drove 14 miles to where [we] reached the Big Sandy again having left it as soon as forded makig our entire dive to day 28 miles over a good road The wind has blown quite a gale and very cold

Tuesday 3 July 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Drove 8 miles to Green River We found a Mormon ferry on which is used a flot boat Price for Ferrige \$5 pr waggon The river is 200 feet wide

12 or 15 feet deep with a swift current We found some 25 waggons waiting to be crossed ahead of us and were delayed untill

Wednesdy July 4th

when at 5 am we comnenced ferrying over and finished at 11 am as we as we [sic] could only drive 7 miles this pm on account of water and grass We delayed starting till 2 pm
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an en camped on the Green River where the road leaves it at 5½ The climate in these parts is very variable At mid day we have a pleasent summer heat and for two nights the water hes frozen in our camps about ½ inch in thickness We are to night 47 mils from Fort Bridger and 160 from Mormon City at the Great Salt Lake which route we have determind to take beig shorter better roads and more grass Our entire distance from here to the dggins is between 7 and 800 miles

Thursdy July 5 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Reached Blacks ford [Fork] a tributary of Green River 15 miles at 4 pm Halted for dinner and drove 3½ miles to Hams Fork a tributary of Blacks which we forded and encamped at 6 pm Both of these streans are 50 feet wide with 2 feet of water and a strong current In all cases we have to wade through to drive the cattle which keeps me wet about half the time Roads to day good
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with fine weathr We are all in fine spirits having yestardy seen some specimens of California gold which the Mormons had at the ferry

Friday July 6 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 and drove 18 miles to a saline creek and encamped at 5 pm
Weather clear and warm Roads good Mountains all around coverd with snow

Saturday July 7

Arose at 3 Left camp at 5 Drove 18 mils with out water to Fort Bridger where encamped at 1 pm Roads good awfully dusty Fort Bridger is an Indian trading post made of logs in the stockad fashion

Sunday 8 July

Arose at 5 Left camp at 6½ Dined at 11 am Encamped at 7½ pm having made 20 miles Our road to dg has been ever varying from deep ravines, table land to hagh peaks 7.315 feet above the level of the sea upon the highest of which [Sugar Loaf Butte] our camp now stands The quality of the land seems better not the desert waste we have had for a month better grass and more vaiety of scenery but as we are now fairly in the mountains which
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are mountains whose tops are all ways coverd with snow the road is more rough and dangerous

to waggons

Mondy July 9 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 7 At 11 reached Bear River a stream 200 feet wide 3 feet deep and of the most rapid current I have ever seen It is 700 feet above the lake [it is about 2860 feet above Great Salt Lake] We were detained here till 3 pm in consequence of our being obliged to block up our waggon bodies to fort [sic] it En camped at 5 pm on a prety piece of meadow in a ravine 5 miles west of the ford We had at the river sone few straw berries whilst high banks of snow were in view Our road to day has been good but very hilley Weathr fine A great improvement in the appearance of the country

Tuesday July 10

Left camp at 6 and traveled untill 8½ pm makig our usual noon halt The road to dg has been entirely through a narrow ravine between rocky formation from 300 to 500 feet high and presenting scenery of the most

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magnificent character but impossible to describe It has been the wonder and admiration of oll our party Through the whole length of ths ravine runs Echo Creek in a winding course which requires us to cross it 13 times and in some parts [is] allmost impassible

Wednesday July 11 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 7 Drove to Weber River a deep and rapid stream 12 miles and halted at 12 m[eridian] We were here obliged to block up our waggon bodies 15 inches which ocupied the balance of the day Poplar and cotton wod abound upon its banks Water 4 feet deep

Thursdy July 12 1849

It being 9 oclock last evening before we got our waggons over and men and cattle being tired from the exertion we did not leave camp untill 1 pm to day but ocupied our time in hunting and fishing We obtained one antelope and a fine lot of genuine trout which proved a great relish Drove 10 miles to Kenyon Creek

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a mountain stream 15 feet wide where we encamped at 6½ pm Roads bad The creeks causing us much dely Through ravines and over hills has been our travel Hot and drye [?] Cold nights

Fridy July 13 1849

Left camp at 7 am This has been an eventful ^{event ful} dg The first 8 miles of our drive has been through a rough ravine through which the kenyon passes We were oblged to cross this 13 times then ascendig the mountain road four miles long at an elevation of 9000 [7420] feet From the tops of which the most splendid view greeted our eyes that can be immagined The snow capped mountains rising far above us in the dstance the valley of the Salt Lake 20

miles distant with intermediate hills excited the admiration of our whole party From this point we were obliged to descend by a circuitous route where the trees are cut away only of sufficient width for a wagon to

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pass the stumps were left 8 or 10 inches high in mid road which made it dangerous every minute to cattle and with all other trials the front wheel of my wagon ran over my foot the hubs caught my knee and threw me over All who saw it thought me seriously injured and in a moment the General was present half frightened out of his mind giving orders to do this and that but by good luck nothing serious occurred Encamped at 7 pm on Browns Creek much worn [weary?] by our hard day's work

Saturday July 14 1849

Lent [sic] camp at 7 and drove to the Mormon City at the Great Valley of Salt Lake which we reached at 6 pm over a worse road than we had yesterday We were obliged to ford a creek 19 times whose banks were so steep as to endanger our wagons We halted in the city at a wagon maker to have them repaired which will detain us some days

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Sunday 15 July

Here we are once more enjoying the comforts of civilized life The family at whose house we halted last night proffered to do our cooking and furnish provision for us during our stay but were unable to lodge us from the limited means possessed by them To day we have had peas beans & potatoes onions &c which we enjoyed much Attended church this morning and after dinner walked out 3 miles to a warm sulphur spring and enjoyed a most delightful bath One year ago there was not a single house in the valley now over 400 good buildings are erected and inhabited and many more [sic] in course of erection They are all built of adobe or sun burnt brick in blocks 4 & 12 inch which are regularly laid up one story high and make a comfortable building The people are industrious and hospitable Their crops look well and contentment seems their lot Warm and dry

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Monday 16 July 1849 Tuesday [July] 17 Wednesday [Jul] 18th

remained [sic] at the City of the Great Salt Lake at the house of Chauncey G Webb a wagon maker by trade whom we employed to repair our wagons Himself and wife we found pleasant and agreeable people This city lies in a valley 16 miles due east of the lake from which it derives its name It is but two years since the first pioneers came out and now 4 square miles are enclosed with farming and the earth looks like a garden spot wheat rye corn and all vegetables do well Rain but seldom falls and the lands are all irrigated by canals from the canyon stream It is really wonderful how much these people have accomplished in so short a time

Thursday July 19 1849

Left camp at 4½ am and drove out 8 miles where we encamped for the night On our route we passed [the] edge of the Salt Lake and also the warm sulphor spring the one we all enjoyed [page 55]
so much a bathing One spring at this place was so hot it would scald

Friday July 20 1849

Left camp at 4½ am and drove 3 miles to water We halted for breakfast at 12 m Mooved and camped at 5 pm having drove 19 miles over a fair road Our route has been on the north side and in view of the Salt Lake all day Wether oppressively hot and dry the dust following in clouds

Saturday July 21 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6½ am Drove 14 miles to Weaver [Weber] River which we had to ford twice and nooned Encamped at 6½ pm having driven 19 miles over a bad road and the weather extreamly hot Our camp is prettily situated on a emminance near a living brook with a high range of mountains on our right [three blank lines]

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Sunday 22 July

In consequence of an addition to our family last night did not travel to day Done up my washing Dined with the Gen We had mountain hens for supper our boys having shot 13 today Weather hot thernnometer 95 in shade

Monday July 23 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 Drove 10 mils to a fine mountain stream clear as crystal and cold as ice water The day being extreamly hot it proved [a] luxurious treat Halted two hours and drove 7 miles to Box Elder Creek a fine stream 15 feet wide two [feet] deep Here we encamped at 5 pm We have not pitched our tents since we left the spot 10 miles this side of Independence where we spent a week during unplesant weather Slep in our waggons but lately take a blanket or buffalo skin and sleep on the ground The air is perfectly dry and pure A party of our folks left the train this mornig for game [page 57]

and brought to noon camp 25 mountain hens a bird about the size [of] a young fowl weighing fm 3 to 5 lbs and as tender as a wood cock We have made 4 meals from them and I never whished for better ones They also brough[t] in a black war eagle measuring 7 feet 3 inches from tip to tip of wings PS Since writing the above our hunters have brought to camp 26 more mountan hens & 4 hares

Tuesday July 24 1849

Left camp at 5½ and drove 19 miles to Bear River Ferry which we reached at 1 pn Oweing to the number of teans ahead of us we could not commence crossing untill Wednesday mornig Our road to day has been level and good but as usual awfully dusty with very hot sun

Wednesday July 25 1849

Arose at 2 Commenced crossing at 4 and got our last waggon ovr at 7 The river is 160 feet wide and 10 [feet] deep and is crossed by means of two small boats lashed together upon which our [wagons] are placed The Snake Indians have
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been in our camp all day Left the river at 7½ and drove 3 miles to the "Malad" which we found much difficulty in fordig oweig to its almost perpendicular banks and muddy bottom Some of our waggons sunk in so as to wet the loading Nooned a[t] 1 pm without water and were obliged to drive till 9 before we found any when we encamped We have driven 25 mils to dy under a hot sun the dust so dense as at tines the driver could not see the road and our cattle without any water and that we are on to night a warn soda spring

Thurdy July 26 1849

Arose at 5 Left camp [and] our en campmnt at the name[d] spring without any regrets at 8 and drove 12 miles over a continous chain of mountains both tedious and dangerous on account of large stons in the road Encanped at 3 pm on a fine mountain stream which to both men and cattle was the greatest luxury could be offerd The heat has been so intense and the dust so troublesone some of our cattle have droped on
[page 59]
the road side but none have died

Friday July 27

Arose at 4 Left camp at 6 and drove 12 miles to the Sink of Deep Creek a poor brackish water course by 11 am and where we halted until 2 pm at which tine we started on a drive of 12 miles more to a spring on the plains which we reached at 7 pm and encamped= no grass and poor water impregnated with the smell and tast of a hog hole was all we had for our cattle after a long dry dusty warn day I have for some days past renarked on the dusty state of the roads The worst condition of our Newark streets would not in any way compare with the unbarrable state of the roads here Tnice [sic] each day when we have water are we compelled to strip of and wash The men become so coverd it is almost impossible to recognise one another and this nust last until we get to the Calafornia mountin as no rain falls in this country The wild sage is the only plant growg hearabouts

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Saturday [July 28]

Arose at 4 Left camp at 5 Drove 6 mils to a spring in the hills when at 8 am we halted At 10½ started on and drove 8 miles to a small stream of water where where [sic] we dined at 3½ pm After halting 1 hour we again resumed our drive and reached at 6 pm a fine clear stream and good pasture which being rather scarce in the hills we concluded to camp This section of country is of a volcanic natue and from numerous causes can never be inhabited. Within a week past we have found springs of water from luke warm to scaldig hot and but little

of the pure element and as this [is] of the first importance to man he cannot live here The earth is parched up from want of rain and what little grass we find is as brown as our cured hay We were last night regaled with the barking of wolves in our camp Some of us who were sleeping on the ground did not all together admire their proximity and tried to shoot one but the moon did not give light enough I have no doubt they were within 20 feet of some of the sleepers [page 61]

[The following parenthetical phrase is transcribed exactly as found in the diary. It is in the same handwriting as the rest of the volume.]

(Hicks says they were so close as to steal the boot from under his head and a frying pan from under the waggon for what little g[r]ace they could get from it)

Sunday July 29 1849

Arose at 5 Left camp at 7 Drove 9 miles to the Cassian [Raft River] and dined at 11½ At 2 pm started and drove 9 miles to where we again struck the same stream and encamped at 6 On the 30th of June [when just west of South Pass] we left what is called the Oregon Road but is likewise the Californian road as far as Fort Hall and is mostly travelled by emigrants this year On that account we chose to go by Fort Bridger and the Salt Lake expecting to find a better road and more pasture In both respects we were successful To day we are within 6 miles of where the road joins again but have as a choice to take it or travel 80 miles more on the road now termed the Mormon road [Salt Lake Cutoff] We have decided to travel [page 62]

on our present road to avoid the great crowd on the main one Weather last evening cool To day warm and but little air There has not been a dry day the month but we have seen snow

Monday July 30 1849

Left camp at 6 We were misinformed last evening as to the Mormon and Fort Hall roads As we reached the Old or Fort Hall road in 6 miles from our encampment of last night and drove 7 miles to a small stream on it where we nooned at 12 m At 2 pm started and drove 10 miles to Goose Creek over the most mountainous road we have seen for the whole distance Mountain succeeded mountain and loose stone and shelving rock composed the road One descent was so steep as to require rope to ease the waggon down Encamped at 7 Weather warm roads dusty

Tuesday 31 July

Arose at 4 Owing to our tedious drive yesterday did not leave camp until 9 am and drove 6 miles to another camping place on Goose Creek where we dined at 12 We started up this creek 16 miles [page 63]

At 2 pm started and drove 7 miles to another camping spot on same stream The weather in these mountains elevations and valleys is very changeable At mid day the sun is oppressively hot and for the past four nights ice has made in our camps

[note— following entries in different ink]

Wednesday August 1

Arose at 4 Mornig col [cool] Left camp at 6 and drove till 9 am Distance 6 miles where we halted Findeg good grass and water concluded to rest our cattle the balance of the day Our people have been out for fish and shooting mountan hens and hares so that to migh [night] we might have a feast of good things The road good for two dayes past It was at this place the Indians folowed Hicks in to camp he beig out shooting Came upon a party of them. On their way to camp thy wer very anxious to get hold of his gun but were not successful They stayed around our camp til towards evenig and left

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Thursday 2 August 1849

Arose at 4 Morning cold Left camp at 6 and travelled 5 miles to where we crossed and left Goose Creek At 11½ halted to dine and rest cattle on top of a high hill At 3½ pm found a fine cold spring bursting out of a rock [Rock Spring] Stopped to water our teams and drove 4 miles up Hot Spring Valley where we encamped at 6 pm having made 22 miles without any grass for our cattle nothing but sage bushes growing on the entire routa We have no water to night and do not know how soon we my find any Our route lies up this valley 33 miles We have to day another fine lot of mountain hens a bird whose plumage is something like out partridge but much the size of our common hens One to day weighed 4½ pounds

Friday August 3 1849

Arose at 4 Left camp at 8 Drove 8 miles and halted to take a lunch There being no water or grass merely stopped for ½ an hour At 5 encamped again in the valley having made 16 miles

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at some seasons of the year there is abundance of water throughout this valley as a deep gulley extends its whole length but now we can only get a little by dying [digging] wells in the gulley three feet deep

Saturday Aug 4

Left camp at 6 At 10 found a spring so hot as to scald a chicken and near to it a fine cold one [present Winecup Ranch] Halted to water at 1 pm At the end of the valley took a lunch which detained us 1 hour There being no grass did not unyoke teams At 2 pm took [sic] to the bluffs and drove 8 miles to a branch of Humbolt River and encamped at 6½ pm having made 22 miles We have now struck the great river of the Great Basin upon whose margin our road lies for 300 miles Our folks to dy brought to camp 60 mountain hens

Sunday August 5

Arose at 5 Left camp at 7½ and drove 8 miles through a kenyon [Bishop Creek?] in which [we] were abliged to cross a strean 9 times This part of our road was the most trying to our

waggons of any [we] have passed over in some places the pass

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was barely wide enough for a waggon track and the rocks were from 6 to 20 inches high over which we were obliged to force our way At 11 am found fine grass and rested for 2½ hours At 1½ pm started and encamped at 6 having made 17 miles today We are now in a beautiful vally with a branch of the Humboldt River near at hand Forty head of hens have been brought to camp this eveng some weighing 5 bounds The rest of this afternoon shooting Dust dust dust more and more of it Snow in sight on the mountains Weather pleasant Nights cold

Mondy 6 August 1849

Left camp at 6¼ Drove 12 miles to Humboldt River over a good road The river at this place is but a small stream 10 feet wide and 6 inches deep with a slow current Halted 2 hours for dinner Left at 1½ pm and encamped at 5 on the north bank of the river having made 18 miles to day It [is] to me a remarkable and singular feature in this country the almost entire destitution of timber The mountains with the exception of a [page 67]

few scrubs of cedar are bare as also the banks of all the water courses We have to depend on the wild sage or bush willows for all our fuel for camp fires and are sometimes pinched for these A fine warm spring of blood heat 15 feet in diameter with a pebble bottom invited us to a bath yesterday which we much enjoyed We now anticipate fine roads and water & grass for the entire length of this river some 290 miles

Tuesday Aug 7 1849

Left camp at 5½ Halted at noon for 3 hours and encamped at 6½ having driven 20 miles There are no remarkable feature[s] in this part of our journey Our drive of to day has only varied from that of yesterday by our having to make a detour over some hills from the river where it would [make] its passage through narrow rocky passes barely wide enough for its passage Generally speaking we find abundance of pasture the entire way High mountains whose tops are covered with snow run parallel [page 68]

with the stream on both sides making a fine bottom from one to 5 miles in width With rain which we have not had for 6 weeks this would be the finest growing country in the world In low damp spots we find patches of grass and wild wheat six feet high Weathr warm roads more than dusty

Wednesday Aug 8 1849

Left camp at 6 Rested at noon for 2 hours 11 to 1 Encamped at 6 pm having made 20 miles The roads are bad to day with grass and water plenty We are warned to keep a good watch after Indians as they are stealing stock

Thursday Aug 9 1849

Left camp at 6½ Drove 10 miles through a kanyon [Carlin Canyon] where we crossed the Humboldt 5 times and nooned In the afternoon we drove 6 miles and encamped at 4 pm

Friday Aug 10

Left camp at ¼ [to] 6 on Martins Ford [Fork] and drove 12 miles before halting over a succession of hills where at 12 finding no feed or water only

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remained ½ hour At 4¼ encamped on Humboldt having made 20 miles Some of our men this morning at the time we took to the hills [Emigrant Pass] started out to hunt down the ravine through which the river passes [Palisade Canyon] It is very accessible for foot travel but not for waggon Shortly after our getting in to camp they came in with quantities of duck geese &c and some Indian arrows as curiosities which had been shot at them while they were going through the bushes in the ravine This tribe here are called the Digger and are the lowest of any thing in human form They wear no clothing live on roots which they dig from the streams and grass hoppers which they cook by burning the grass of [which] they gather then and eat then They annoy emigrants by shooting their cattle But if our boys are molested they will catch powder and ball I have been confined to my wagon for 2 days with a fever but am

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able this morning to write up my journal

Saturday Aug 11 1849

Last evening when we encamped expected to make an early start this morning but the grass being poor about us were obliged to herd our cattle 3 miles off Six men went out with them and guns to keep off the Indians Before all the cattle could be got ready some having strayed off with other herds it got to be 9 o'clock and at 12 halted for dinner having made 6 miles At 2 pm started and on account of sickness in our train at 4 encamped having made only 10 miles Weather as usual and roads bad

Sunday August 12 1849

I had a rise of fever again last night followed by profuse perspiration Passed an uncomfortable time The roads are so uneven that I became worn out This morning from 6 to 9 got on horse for relief were at noon felt much better Left camp at 6½ Nooned at 11 Drove on at 2 Encamped at 6 made

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20 miles to day Same appearance in the roads country &c Are now feeling as though we will sometime get through this tedious journey

Monday Aug 13 1849

Left camp at 6½ Made our noon halt and encamped at 6 pm having made 20 miles Our course lies near the river not varying more than a mile Grass is now generally good and plenty My health is better but am yet confined to my wagon from weakness Such fare as

we have not being apt to tempt a verry sick man Weathr continues fine with cold nights and sone dew falls which we have not seen for a long while

Tuesdy Aug 14 1849

Lent [sic] camp at 5½ and drove 16 mils to a camp on Humboldt

Wednesday [Aug] 15

Left camp at 6¼ and drove 17 mils

Thursdy Aug 16

Left camp at 6 Drove 15 mils I am to feeble to journalize
[page 72]

Friday Aug 17 1849

This is the 30th day of August and it is the first dy I am enabled to resume my journal I have been very sick and feard my recovery By Gods kindness and good will I am much better
I am indebted to Harris [Stephen Harris Meeker] for the use of his journal to copy from

Left camp 6½ [am] and encampd at 7 pm having made 15 miles to day Four cattle were killed by lightning to day There are 3 men sick in our party

Saturdy Aug 18 1849

Left camp at 6½ Crossed the river which was up to our waggon beds Drove 8 miles and nooned In one mile from our noon camp ascended a very steep sandy bluff which required all the efforts of our teams to overcome Drove 12 mils over a high barren sandy plain and reached the river at 9 pm having made 20 mils Grass poor

Sundy 19 Aug 1849

Left camp at 7 Drove 7 mils and encampd at 11 am

[page 73]

Monday Aug 20 1849

Remaind in camp all day on account of sickness of Denman and Bend [Bond] At ths camp the water is poor I have seen a numbr of deal oxens in the slough were we have to take our water

Tuesdy Aug 21 1849

From this point [the writer is now at the "Big Bend" of the Humboldt, the headwaters of what is now Rye Patch Reservoir] there are two routes one by the Sink of Marys River and a northern route [Applegate/Lassen] by Oregon On the former feed for 100 miles is short 45 mils of which no grass or water can be found On the latter which we took for reasons to be told
To our great astonishment we found 60 miles without any water or grass We left camp at 1½ pm Drove till sundown Rested 1 hour and drove untill daylight Rested 2 hours and drove untill 7½ pm when we reached the Hot Sulpor Springs with all our animals alive We

saw hundred lying dead on the way We turned our cattle loose to do the best they could
but little grass

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and poor water was all they found [from this point onward the writer often over estimates his
mileages by about 20%]

[Wednesday, Aug 22

no entry— probably laid over]

Thursdy Aug 23 1849

Left camp at 7 Drove on 3 miles to good water and tolerably good grass and encampd for the
dy After leaving Independence we passed a large train of 60 waggons from that place guided
by and governed by an old mountaineer who had been over the road 8 or 10 times and who was
going to make a cut off A Mr Hedgepath [Hudspeth] was the principal of the train
Believing he would make a cut off saving 100 miles (or more) we followed him but to keep the
road the whole distance was our only reward for following except this road is tolerably good
with good feed and water at convenient distances And on the other [road] doubt if our cattle
could ever get through We have also another case [of illness] of the same kind a Mr
Denman who will not probably live but a few days Alas how uncertain is life Sinc
writing the above this am Mr [Job] Denman is dead [see Transcriber's comments] A coarse
[page 75]

board coffin was made for him and his remains deposited by the road side with plain head board
to mark the place Having laid by teams after teams passed us and eat of most of the
pasture but we dare not move until Mr Bond meets with a change Although we have
another desert of 26 miles to cross before we reach our next camp several hot springs are near us
and the whole country volcanic

[Friday Aug 24

no entry— probably laid over]

Saturday Aug 25 1849

Arose at 4 am Still in camp. Mr Bond died [of typhoid fever] at 20 minutes before 4 pm and
was interred beside Mr Denman in the same manner I will state I saw one of these hot spring
which was as transparent as glass It seemed as though you could see 20 feet into the water which
was boiling hot [remainder of page blank]

[page 76]

Sunday August 26

Arose at 4 Morning cold Left camp at 6 Drove 3 miles to large boiling spring to
breakfast This [Black Rock Spring] is the largest hot spring sulphurous to taste and smell
and emitting a stream as large as a mans body and the only water found within 20 miles At 9
an left and commence crossing the desert Most fortunately for us after driving 8 miles we

found at one mile from the road plenty of good water with a little of the sulphur taste
Spending an hour here to rest and water our cattle At 2½ pm started for camping 15 miles
distant which by the time we reached 9 pm our cattle were all well worn down one of my
team giving out [writer crossed Mud Meadows]

Monday 27 Aug

Arose at 6 Left camp at 8 Drove 1 mile to good grass and water to recruit our teams
Remained in camp all day

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Tuesday Aug 28

Left camp at 7 am Drove 2 miles over the bottom Passed several trains and reached the
bluffs Ascended [Fly Canyon] four miles by a rocky road to a summit from which place
driving 8 miles some of the time descending [into High Rock Canyon] we reached our camping
place in buttes where we found good grass and excellent spring water running from a spot where the
sun never shines being overshadowed by rocks some 400 feet high

Wednesday Aug 29

Arose at 4½ Ice ½ to ¾ in thick formed in camp last night and at 7 am thermometer at 18°
At 11 am 84° in shade Left [sic] camp and drove 8 miles when we reached the end of the
canyon where we nooned Drove 8 miles more through bottom watered by small springs and
encamped at 4½ pm having [driven] 16 miles [remainder of page blank]

[Thursday Aug 30

no entry, possibly laid over— this the day the writer copied entries August 17 to 30 from Meeker]

[page 78]

Friday August 31 1849

Ice in camp this morning Left at 7½ am Drove 2 miles to a fine spring gushing from the
mountain side where we filled our casks and watered teams preparatory to the difficult drive we
just entering upon Leaving the spring in 200 yards we reached the canyon where for 3 or 4
miles we met with a road almost as rough and dangerous as any we had encountered sometimes
passing over rocks as high as the wheels then winding [through] the dense willows and over
stumps the [n?] plunging perpendicularly into sloughs of mud and water 3 & 4 feet deep
Leaving the canyon we drove 3 miles by a good road over a hill at 12 m Nooned in a narrow
valley Leaving the valley our road for 6 miles was over an uneven & barren country when we
reached a small valley where [we] intended to encamp for the night but finding grass so entirely
consumed and but a poor supply of water we decided to proceed and run the risk

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of [finding] better camping Driving 4 miles and finding neither grass or water we stopped one
hour on a high bluff to rest our cattle and then proceeded to find if possible water for our
famishing animals Passing 12 miles over a level barren plain [Long Valley] when we

reached a poisonous alkali lake][probably Fortynine Lake] which we were all sure was good water and would end our toilsome and fatigueing drive Leaving this spot much dissapointed ascended 5 miles to a bluff where we reached a kenyon at 2 pn midnight [2 am?] where we found springs of good water Turning our animals loose to take care of themselves we all turned in to rest having driven 30 miles

Saturdy Sept 1 1849

Arose at 6 Our camp walled in on two sides by high perpendicular hills Found all our cattle except the 2 which gave out yestardy Getting good grass and water 2 miles from us we sent all our cattle under

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guard there for the day and remaind in camp

Sundy Sept 2

Arose at 4½ an Mornng clear with ice Left camp at 7 am and drove 15 mils over a very hilly and rough road when we reached a vally [Surprise Valley, just west of the Nevada/California state line] which give us a view of the Sieira Nevada Here are several hot saline spings

Monday 3 Sept

Left camp at 7 am Drove 5 mils over an uneven and barren county when we reached the southern extremity of what appeared to have been a larg lake [Upper Lake] some 15 mils by 44 [missing number] dried up at this season by the hot suns We crossed the head of it [on] as hard and good a road as we had ever travelled and reached the base of the Sieria Nevada [no— this was the Warner Mountains, 60 miles east of the Sierra— a common error made by emigrants] at 12½ noon having driven 10 mils The valley here which extends from the mts to the margin of the lake is 2 miles in width and coverd with luxurious growth of grass and watered by numerous springs from the mountains

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The drives [??] on the sides of the moutan are coverd with large welow [yellow] pine the first trees w[e]have seen in 400 miles We also found some fine plumbs on the mountains which was more welcome

Tuesday Sept 4 1849

Left camp at 7 am In 8 miles reached the base of the mountain where the road crosses it Noond at 12 pm Commenced the crossing of the celebrated Nevada [again, this was the Warner Mountains, not the Sierra] by far the most difficult undertaking of the kind we have had yet encounterd It is 2 miles from the base to the summit [Fandango Pass] by quite a direct road and in many places so steep as to be difficult to walk up it Putting 10 to 14 pair of oxen to each waggon our teans were then in ma[n]y places barely able to move the ligh load behind them and then only resting them every few yards After the most diligent and and [sic] hard labour of 3½ hours the first waggon reached the peak at an elevation of 700 feet [1700 feet above Upper Lake or about 6150 a.s.l] and from which we were presented with an unlinited and

glorious view of the surrounding county

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all having reached the top in safety at 6[?] pm we began ^{the} descent and in one mile reached the [Fandango] valley without difficulty Encamped at 8 pm much fatigued

Wednesdy Sept 5 1849

Arose at 5½ am Our camp was at the head of a small valley ~~which~~ and waterd by streams from the mountin which towerd above us on either side coverd by large pines Left camp at 8 am and in 3 miles left the vally and began ascending the mountain west of us much of which we found very rocky and steep Drove 5 miles on the bottom to a fine stream and encamped at 7 pm having made 18 miles [the writer only describes 8 miles of travel, not 18; he also fails to mention traveling along Goose Lake and that at this point he left the Applegate Route and headed south on the Lassen Route.]

Thursdy Sept 6 1849

Left camp at 9 am Dove 8 miles over a good road and nooned at 1 pm The road for 6 miles this pm was over an uneven and rocky [word missing] Encamped at 6 pm

Wednesdy [Friday] 7 Supt

Left camp at 7 am Road rough and over a barren county Drove 14 and encampd at 6 am [pm] on the west [east] bank of [the North Fork of] Pitt River

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Saturdy Sept 8 1849

Remained in camp all day in consequence of the Indians stealig 11 of our best cattle last night and runng thn off to the mountais We sent out a strong body of men who tracke the cattle and Indians for some miles and at sun down we had the pleasure of seeeng all of then driven in to camp They were all found together in a ravine in thee mountins

Sundy Sept 9 1849

Left camp at 7 am Drove 8 miles over a good road and nooned at 11am Ap 1 pm started and drove 8 miles and encamped 5 pm having made 16 miles Weather fin roads good

Monday Sept 10 1849

Left camp at 7 am Nooned at 20 minute to 12 Started forward at 1½ and encampd at 5½ on the same stream [Pit River] we have been on for a week We know no name for it [on Sept. 7 he called it the "Pitt"] Our road this morning smoot level and good but this afternoon stony The mountai are finely coverd with heavy pine timber Made 18 miles to dy

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Tuesdy Sept 11 1849

Ice in camp this mornig Sun rose clear and warm Left camp 7½ Drove 2 miles

through a kenyon and had to cross a very steep hill bothe in ascent and descent when in 4 miles we again struck the kenyon & [Pit] river and travelled through it for some miles further
Nooned at 11 am The road has been rocky uneven rough an bad Laid by this pm
for Colⁿ Crocketts waggon to come up which was detained ½ day by sickness Had my
washng of 4 weeks done by a colord boy [probably John Rowe] in camp not being strog
enough to do it myself Our friend took the net and caught a nice lot of fish in the stream on
which we are encamtd which gave us a treat for supper Made 7 miles

Wednesdy Sept 12

Left camp 7¼ Ice in the pai[l]s and very cold before sun rise Drove ovr an uneven
and part of the way stony road our course along [Pit] river and mountains which
continues to be coverd with pines Nooned at 11½ Drove on at 1 pm and encampd at 6
having made 18 miles Our road this pn

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has been through a vally from 3 to 5 miles wide with the mountans on either hand coverd with
pines [the writer left the Pit River somewhere in this area]

Thursdy Sept 13 1849

Mornng damp and chilly from the dews Left camp at 8 am Drove 8 miles and nooned at 12
Whilst we were dining a large train of pack mules cane near our camp direct from California
which proved to be a number of men surveyng for the Govenment We got all the informatinn
we could and found among them a Mr Lawson [Peter Lassen] who lives 100 miles from Sut[t]ers
[Fort] and who was anxious to return home He gave us information in regard to the road
which prove to our advantage We laid by this pm.

Fridy Sept 14

Mong cold and hey [heavy] dews Left camp at 8½ and nooned at 1 pn having made 9 miles
The roads have ben mostly good but have had a fair share of stones The mornng has been cold
with some wind blowing When our road has been across the mountain we have passed
through forrest of pine

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Trees large enough for masts for 74 gun shiip Nooned in the forrest without water a[t] 20
minutes past 2 Drove forward and at 7 encamped on a lag [large] stream whose name we did
not know Our road has been awfully stony and proving very bad to our waggons and cattles
feet Made 16 miles Had quite a thundn shower this pm

Saturdy Sept 15

Heavy dews and cold mornngs Left camp 10 minites to 9 Crossed the stream on which we
were encamped which made considerable detention Noond a[t] 20 past 11 hvng made 5 miles
over a fin rod Drove on at 20 mntes to 1 and encamped at 3 in consequence of one of our
waggons breakg an axle Very fortunately for us we are now in a land where timber grows
We sent out and got a fine stick of live oak and by noon next day had it finished Of all roads

these are the most stoney wearing out of cattles feet and all most tearing the waggons to pieces
[remainder of page blank]

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Sundy Sept 16 1849

Day fine Mornng cool Left camp at 1½ [not 7½] and drove over a most horid rough road enough to breake all the waggons and ruin all the cattle to a spring in mountains where we encanped at 5½ pm We have a fine piece of pine timber on all sides good grass and fine water

Mondy Sept 17 1849

Left camp 7½ Nooned at 12½ at a spring in the woods without grass Drove on at 2 pm and encamped at 7½ in the woods We were abliged to stop here not from choice we intended to have gone 4 miles further to water and grass but at this point we came to a hill to descende rocky crooked and sideling It being quite dark we dare not indertake its descent but tied our oxes to the wheels Drove 20 miles [remainder of page blank]

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Tuesdy Sept 18 1849

At early daylight we drove forward and in 4 miles reachd our desires water and grass We halted till noon when at 1½ we drove untill 5 pm when we encampd Our roads are as stony as ever and allmost impassible The country undulating and scenery fine Made 14 miles

Wednesdy Sept 19

Left camp at 7½ Noond at 11 Drove on at 4½ & encamped at 6 in the woods with good grass but no watr ~~left camp at 9~~

Thursdy Sept 20

Left camp at 9 and nooned at a fine stream of water [Robbers Creek? headwaters of Feather River?] any [and] good grass where remang some tine and finally concluded to remain the rest of the pm

Fridy [Sept] 21

The Genarl being sick concluded to remain in camp to day

Saturdy [Sept] 22

Left camp at 9 Made 14 miles to dy to water where we encampd with fine grass and watr

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Sundy 23 Sept

Left camp at 8½ and drove four miles where we encampd for the day We are now nursing our

cattle for a long and tedious drive without much water or feed and a most horrid rough road
We are now 100 miles from the diggins and we are all anxious to get through safe [writer is
probably now near Feather River/Lake Almanor]

Mondy Sept 24

Left camp a 8½ and drove 10 miles over a rough road through the pines and encamped at 4 pm on
Butt Creeks at 2½ pm [note time problem] Weathr fine

Tuesdy Sept 25

Left camp at 10 Drove 12 miles and encamped at 4 pm on Deer Creek The roads are so
rough the General had his hind axle break to day This is the 4[th time] within 2 weeks

Wednsy 26 Sept

Remain in camp to day to repair wagon and cut grass for our cattle as we find no more for 50
miles

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Thursdy Sept 27 1849

Left camp at 10 am and drove 8 miles to a small valey with water but no grass We were
detained to day on the road by Gen^l Darcy havig his axel break again The roads are so rough
as to endanger waggons every moment and is wearing out our cattle

Friday Sept 28 1849

Waited untill 1 pm in camp when the Gen^l came up We soon left and drove 8 miles to water
Encampd at 5 pm Feed out the grass we had cut in hand fulls

Saturday Sept 29

Yestardy thee Gen^l broke his axle again and was obliged to stop to repair We left camp at 7
am and drove our cattle 2 miles over the worst piece of road I ever saw It was next to
impossiblee Many [cattle] had fallen and broken ther necks which had proceeded us
[remainder of page blank] [writer descended into Steep Hollow either September 29 or 30]

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Sunday Sept 30 1849

Left camp at 10 and drover untill it was so dark we were aptiged [obliged] to encamp without
water Feed out our last grass to night Retired tired hungry and worn out not having
time to think of any thing but getting ahead without killing our cattle or breaking down our
waggons

Monday Octr 1 1849

Left camp at 4¼ am and drove 10 miles when we reached water in Dry Creek in Sacramento
Valley where we halted long enough to water and take a cup of coffee at Started and drove
11½ miles to Lawsons [Lassens] Ranch where we encamped on the Sacramento River at 6 pm

We are now awating the arival of four of our waggons which have not come up yet I have
lost 2 of my oxen out of my team within 3 days from exaustion

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Tuesday Oct 2 1849

Our teams are yet behind and we are idle The party was composed of the folowing
gentleman

John S Darcy Comander

Willian D Kinney

S H Meeker

J. Adopus Pennington

Andrew J Gray

Charles Gray

Charles Hicks

Abraham Joraleman

Robert Bond

Benjamin Casterline

Lewis B Baldwin

John R Crockett

Thomas Fowler

Ashfield Jobs

W^m T Lewis

John Lewis

Job Denman

Moses Canfield

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David Woodruff

Henry Johnson

[Daniel S.] Birdsall

[Joseph] Freeman

[remainder of page blank]

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[entire page blank]